

Greenland's Church Threatened by Disunity.

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C H U R C H N E W S

FROM THE NORTHERN COUNTRIES

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DENMARK

Danish Church Delegation to Soviet.

About the middle of November a delegation from the Danish Lutheran National Church will leave for the Soviet Union in consequence of an invitation from the Synod of the Orthodox Church. The visit in the Soviet Union will probably last for three weeks.

The delegation will consist of four members, Bishop H. Fuglsang-Damgaard, D.D., Copenhagen, who is a member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, Bishop Erik Jensen, Aalborg, Dean Alf Johansen, Salling, who visited the Soviet some years ago and who speaks Russian, and the rector of Øster Egesborg Rev. Johs. Langhoff.

This invitation from the Russian Church is the first that has been extended to a Scandinavian Church.

Not Allowed to hold Catholic Services in Lutheran Church.

A Danish pastor in the Lutheran National Church recently offered a Catholic colleague the use of the Lutheran church for a service, but the Ministry of Church Affairs opposed this, pointing out that the Church laws do not permit clergymen from non-Lutheran churches to hold divine service in a building belonging to the National Church.

The question has arisen owing to the fact that a number of Catholics have recently moved to the country around Tønder in southern Jutland where they were almost unknown before, and that the rector in Tønder, Rev. Hans Magle, thought it only right that they should be allowed to hold services in a church. Among other things he pointed out that different denominations in other countries borrow each other's churches where it is indicated by the circumstances. However, on hearing the decision of the Church Ministry the rector bowed to the provisions of the law.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

November 1955

55 56

Greenland's Church Threatened by Disunity.

The people of Greenland are threatened by disunity within the fellowship of their church and in the soul of the nation, says Dean Michael Neiiendam, D.D., Copenhagen, on his return from a trip to various parts of Greenland.

The island's Eskimo population was converted to Christianity through the activity of the Danish missionary Hans Egede in the 18th century, and in church matters Greenland stands as a part of Denmark under the Lutheran bishop of Copenhagen. Until now the church of Greenland has been one with a common faith, creed, and service, but now three denominations outside the Lutheran national church have started work in Greenland, viz. the Seventh Day Adventists, the Pentecostal Mission, and Jehovah's Witnesses. The Dean, who is a specialist in denominations and sects, held courses in the study of various denominations for the Greenland pastors and catechists in a number of central places. The courses aroused a good deal of interest.

Dean Neiiendam also said that in addition to the dangers from the sects there are two dangers threatening the Church, the secularizing tendencies in the national life and the lack of pastors in the national church. But the Dean believes that this very encounter with the sects may give the Lutheran Church new strength and bring about a revival among the people.

Work on Carl Th. Dreyer's Film on the Life of Christ Begins.

For years the famous Danish film director Carl Th. Dreyer has been making preparations for a great film on the Life of Christ. The film, which is eagerly awaited in the international film-world, will now soon become reality. Carl Th. Dreyer will shortly leave for Israel where he expects to complete his preparations in 5 - 6 months.

The international success Mr. Dreyer achieved with his film of Kai Munk's religious drama "The Word" shown at the festival at Cannes this summer has stimulated interest in the film on the Life of Christ. Dreyer recently had a meeting with the financial backers of the film and they appealed to him to expedite matters as much as possible.

The film is to be taken in Israel and will be very costly. The sound track is to be in Hebrew, and apart from Pilate all other parts will be played by Jewish actors.

Abstract Decoration of Danish Country Churches.

The non-figurative Danish painter Mogens Jørgensen has been given an unusual task, namely to decorate the flat wooden ceiling in Hover Church near Vejle. His decorations consist entirely of abstract motifs in symbolic colours.

While studying in France in 1950 Mogens Jørgensen was interested not only in the art of the old cathedrals, but in modern non-figurative art as well. He felt that there was a very close connection between non-figurative art and the atmosphere of the sacred. Abstract art acts freely on the mind and attunes it to devotion, says the painter.

Democratic presidential candidate is not a member of the Church.

Beside his work in Hover Church Mogens Jørgensen has designed an abstract mosaic window for Kolind Church, and restored the objects in Gjerrild Church. All three churches are village churches in Jutland.

Warning Against Increased Influence of the State.

The chairman of the Joint Council for Work among Children, Rev. Haldor Hald, has written an article in the daily "Dagens Nyheder" containing a serious warning against the increased influence of the State in child welfare institutions; he feels that this tendency may well lead to former private institutions being taken over by the State.

The initiative for opening children's homes in the last 100 years has almost entirely come from private circles, and the financial sacrifices necessary for the establishment and the annual expenses of the institutions were generally borne by people who belonged to Christian congregations. Only in the last few decades have the public authorities entered into the picture through large subsidies for the running of private institutions and by the establishment of new State or municipal homes. Now only 5 o/o of the expenses of private institutions are raised by private contribution, while the rest is paid by State and municipality, and in view of this a committee appointed by the Ministry of Social Affairs has suggested that the public administrative bodies should have more influence upon the homes than they have at present. But this view has raised protests in many quarters similar to that of Rev. Haldor Hald, pointing out that it makes a difference whether child welfare is directed from one ministerial department, or it is based on a wide group of interested people who feel a share of responsibility in what is happening. Nor is it unimportant, says the pastor, in what spirit the children are brought up. And when many of the homes have been built and carried on for many years by contributions from a congregation, this heritage imposes an obligation.

The private child welfare movement feels that the proposal is a vote of censure and an indication of a development of which it cannot approve. The State is like the young cuckoo busily employed in ousting the original inhabitants of the nest

Dean C. Skovgaard-Petersen Dies.

The former Dean of Roskilde Cathedral C. Skovgaard-Petersen, who was well-known outside Denmark, especially because of his books on popular theology, has died at the age of 88.

FINLAND

Three Questions to the Church.

The nomination of candidates for the approaching presidential election has (as mentioned in CN No. 8) given rise to a lively debate in Finnish church circles as to the demands the Church should make regarding the man who is to be President. The debate has several times touched on the fact that the Social Democratic presidential candidate is not a member of the Church.

Beside his work in Hovey Church, Morgan Jorgensen has designed an adjacent meadow window for Hovey Church, and designed the objects in Hovey Church. All these churches are in the churches in Finland.

Warning Against Increased Influence of the State

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The initiative for opening children's homes in the last 100 years has almost entirely come from private circles, and the financial sacrifices necessary for the establishment and the annual expenses of the institutions were generally borne by people who belonged to Christian congregations. Only in the last few decades have the public authorities entered into the picture through large subsidies for the opening of private institutions and by the establishment of new State or municipal homes. Now only 25% of the expenses of private institutions are raised by private contribution, while the rest is paid by State and municipality, and in view of this a committee engaged by the Ministry of Social Affairs has suggested that the public administrative bodies should have more influence upon the homes than they have at present. But this view has raised protest in many quarters, similar to that of Rev. Halvor Hald, pointing out that it makes a difference whether welfare is directed through one ministerial department, or if it is based on a wide group of interested people who feel a share of responsibility in what is happening. Now it is an important, save the question, in what spirit the children are brought up. And when many of the homes have been built and carried on for many years by contributions from a congregation, this has to be taken into account.

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Now the Social Democratic party secretary Väinö Leskinen has further stimulated the debate by publicly putting three questions to the Church, because he is afraid that an attempt is being made to exploit the Church against Social Democracy in certain quarters. The questions are:

1. Does the Church intend to classify the six candidates as either sheep or goats?

2. Does the Church approve that a church representative has characterized one of the candidates as suitable and all the others as incompetent?

3. Would it not be consistent with the spirit and endeavours of the State Church to abstain from interfering in election propaganda, and for its leaders to state this as their definite opinion?

The questions were put to Archbishop Salomies, but as he has been absent abroad no answer has as yet been forthcoming.

On the other hand the questions have provoked new contributions to the public debate. The Church paper "Kotimaa" cites the prayer in the Church manual appointed for use before a presidential election. The prayer asks that the people may be granted a "good and god-fearing President" who is "filled with the spirit of wisdom and who firmly and fearlessly adheres to justice and righteousness without swerving", and whose decisions may "lead to what is best for our people, to peace and concord". This prayer, says the paper, is the Church's only preparation for an election.

The Swedish Church weekly "Församlingsbladet" replies in a leading article to the two first questions, answering them in the negative and pointing out that it is prohibited to use the pulpit of church services for political propaganda. As to the third question the paper writes that the Church must inform its members of the demands that should be put to the man at the head of the State, and among these that he must respect and adhere to the Christian principles on which the social structure rests. The Church cannot hold its peace with regard to these demands, but it leaves it to its members to decide which candidate best fulfils these demands.

As to the fact that the Social Democratic candidate does not belong to the Church, the article says that if he fulfils the required standards in other respects, there is no reason to believe that church circles should disapprove of him. The main thing is not that he belongs to the Church, but that he faithfully performs his duties including those inherent in his being the supreme head of the Church (i.e. he is to appoint the bishops).

"Församlingsbladet" even proposes that the presidential candidates should publicly issue a statement on their attitude to their church duties, and points out that serious Christians will automatically refrain from voting for a person who is opposed to the work of the Church.

University Chancellor about the Most Important Demands of our Age.

The Chancellor of Helsinki (Helsingfors) University, Professor Paavo Ravila, pointed out in his opening speech at the beginning of the term that the solution of the great problems of to-day is not to be found in "practical politics" nor in the "sacred standard of living". The transformation of man is the necessary starting point for the transformation of society. We shall have need of plans in the future, but above all we shall need a youth with profound knowledge and a view of life founded on moral strength, said the Chancellor.

Strong Spiritual Life in the Finnish Army.

The strong religious revivals at the front during the last war still make themselves felt in a strong spiritual life in the Finnish army. The majority of the officers meet regularly every year for large Christian conferences, arranged by the Army bishop. To cover the expenses of these conferences The Finnish Businessmen's Mission Covenant (De finske Forretningsfolks Missionsforbund) recently contributed 300.000 Finnish marks.

Last month veterans from the old Finnish guard, which was dissolved by the Russians 50 years ago, assembled in Helsinki (Helsingfors) to exchange memories from their service in the guard. The day was opened with a prayer by Dean R. Tiivola and closed with evening prayers by the army chaplain Eino I. Alitalo. When the present commander of the Finnish forces General K.A. Heiskanen greeted the old veterans, they replied with a "God bless you, General".

Well-known Finnish Author on his Attitude towards Religion.

The well-known Finnish author Mr. Toivo Pekkanen, who was elected member of the exclusive literary Finnish Academy, last year, said in an interview recently:

- Religious questions have never been foreign to me. Even in my childhood I read the entire Bible through one winter. When I was in Paris I visited churches and wondered at the devotion with which people were praying there. But all this was merely groping in the dark. I thrust the whole problem aside and did not arrive at any certainty until I was taught by bitter suffering. A serious crisis confronted me with the fundamental questions no human brain can solve. Until now I had endeavoured to measure everything by my understanding. Now I had to submit to the guidance of the supernatural powers. In the years when this inner conflict was going on, this cause filled my heart.

The First Bibles Published in the Ambo-language.

The first copies of a complete translation of the Bible to the Ambo language have now been issued by the British and Foreign Bible Society. To celebrate this event special thanksgiving services were held in all Christian churches in the Ambo-district. South Africa, where the Finnish Lutheran Church has its most important mission field. The New Testament was translated to the Ambo language as early as 1903 by the missionary Dr. Martti Rauhanen, and he has likewise done most of the translating of the Old Testament.

ICELAND

Preparations for Still Another Church Jubilee.

In addition to the 900th anniversary of the first diocese in Iceland to be celebrated next summer, people are already beginning to think of the next jubilee. This will be in the year 2000 and mark the 1000th anniversary of the introduction of Christianity to the island.

The resolution to adopt the Christian faith was passed by the Althing on the Tingvellir plain. The old church which lies here is so decayed that it can hardly be saved, and now the idea is to celebrate the jubilee by building a new church on Tingvellir. A country-wide subscription for this purpose is expected to begin soon.

The Lutheran National Church in Iceland has 280 parishes with 116 pastors. There is a theological faculty at Reykjavik.

NORWAY

The State Church Ideal as a Structure, says Director Hansson.

Since 1945 29 new churches have been dedicated in Norway and 20 others are under construction. 184 new livings have been established. It is the municipalities that finance most of the building projects, but the Government approves the plans.

Commenting on these figures Director Kristian Hansson from the Ministry of Church Affairs states that the last 10 years have been one of the biggest building periods in the modern history of the Church. Mr. Hansson emphasises the fact that the Ministry of Church Affairs - and the Government - have not opposed the erection of a single church or a single plan for dividing a parish, provided the local congregations had taken the initiative and the financial difficulties could be surmounted.

Mr. Kristian Hansson, who was one of the Norwegian Church's delegates to the Evanston conference and who is well-known as a layman active in the Church, fully supports the idea of a State Church. - I do not believe we can obtain an ideal church in the true sense of the word, i.e. a church where everything is perfect, he says. But what we can do, and what we are trying to do in the Ministry, is to find the best outward structure for the Church so that its work and inner life may be free to develop. And with regard to this outward framework I feel that we in Norway have a very good arrangement. Mr. Hansson admitted that the Church ought to have more pastors, smaller congregations, and more churches, but "we must remember that the Church is not the only institution that does not have all its wishes fulfilled".

Malagasy Clergyman on Conditions in the Norwegian Church.

A young Malagasy clergyman, Rev. Arson Joelsson, recently returned to Madagascar after having studied Norwegian church life for 18 months. He has travelled a good deal and spoken at a number

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of mission meetings. Before leaving, Pastor Joelsson made a number of comparisons between church life in Norway and on Madagascar. He said that he was most grateful for what he had learned in Norway, but there were two things that disappointed him, congregational singing and the lack of laymen contributions to the Norwegian church services. "The congregational singing in Norway", he said, "was not what I hoped to find. The reason is perhaps that you have such fine organs in Norway that the congregation is more engrossed in listening to the organ music than in taking part in the singing."

Pastor Joelsson was surprised that only once during his stay had he heard a layman preach at a church service. "That is quite common in Madagascar. For this reason there is not a single empty church on Sundays as must often be the case in Norway when one clergyman serves several churches. Even though there is only one clergyman to 12 churches in a church district on Madagascar, there are services in all the churches", said Pastor Joelsson, who is a clergyman in the Malagasy Lutheran Church; a fruit of the work carried on by the Norwegian Mission Society.

Norwegian Missionaries as Ethnographers.

The work of Norwegian missionaries as ethnographers has lately received warm recognition from Norwegian museums. The leader of the Ethnographic Museum in Bergen Dr. Kjell Falck appealed to the missionaries a year ago to send home articles of ethnographic interest. A large number of missionaries have responded to this appeal, and the first collections have arrived. Last August the Sudan missionary Rev. Olav Toft from the Norwegian Mission Society returned with a collection of 65 items representing implements in daily use. Dr. Falck has said that he was much impressed with the collection and the careful description of how the implements are used. In the last few weeks the museum has received specimens of the attire of Ethiopian chieftains and rare brass vases from India that have been collected and sent home by the missionaries.

Chaplain Accompanies Fishermen to Greenland.

This is the third year in succession that the Bishop of Bjørgvin diocese has sent a chaplain with the many fishing boats that go trawling in the summer months off the coast of Greenland. Pastor Adolf Bjarke accompanied the fishermen for over four months. He spent part of his time on board one of the boats from which he spoke by shortwave radio to the other boats, and also conducted meetings and services in Føringehavn where the boats go in to victual. At some of the services more than 600 Norwegian fishermen were present.

Stone Cross from Norway to USA.

When Rev. B.M. Hofrenning from the Evangelical Lutheran Church returned to USA recently after a vacation in Norway he had a large stone cross with him as a gift from Norwegian youth. The cross, which is to stand near the theological seminary in St. Paul, Minn., is carved in stone from one of the earliest settlements in Norway, Austrheim. The initiative behind the gift comes from the youth organizations and they also collected the necessary funds.

700 Pupils Attend "Sunday School on Wheels".

The Salvation Army in Kristiansand has been very successful with its "Sunday School on Wheels", which it started a year ago. In several new residential areas in the outskirts of the town there was such a long way to the nearest assembly halls that the children did not come to Sunday School. The Salvation Army rented a large bus and "drove around from place to place with an hour's Sunday School in each place. At the first anniversary of this new effort the figures showed that 23,800 children in all had visited the bus Sunday School in the course of the first year, and that 700 children are registered as members. On the first anniversary the Lord mayor of Kristiansand thanked the Salvation Army for the initiative, which has since been copied in other parts of Norway.

No Law Regarding Faith-healing.

In its report a committee appointed by the Government warns against including the question of faith-healing in the Act regulating the activity of quacks. The question has been the subject of violent discussions in Norway, where among others the director of the Public Health Office Mr. Karl Evang has opposed several preachers, who prayed for the sick, and "for reasons of health" he desired to take action against them. The Government then appointed a committee to revise the law forbidding quacks to practise medicine. The committee was given the special task of investigating the question of faith-healing, but it came to the conclusion that activities of this nature are beyond the sphere of the law. However, the committee emphasizes the fact that the law as it stands to-day can be applied to preachers if they practise as quacks, i.e. make a diagnosis, prescribe special treatment or warn against seeking a doctor's advice. But in that case it is this activity and not the fact that they pray over the sick that is punishable, declares the committee, which at the same time issues a warning to the health authorities against trying to supervise religious activities.

The report made by the committee, which consists of well-known lawyers and doctors, is considered a victory for the Christian point of view.

SWEDEN

The Church is Feeling the State's Struggle for Increased Power.

The State's hold on the Church has tightened at the same time that the Church's hold on the people has weakened. With these words Bishop Gunnar Hultgren, Härnösand, recently characterized the present situation in Sweden, and they have now been made the subject of a leading article by a university lecturer from Uppsala, Dr. Ruben Josefson in the weekly "Svensk Kyrkotidning" of which he is the editor. Dr. Josefson concedes that they give a very apt characteristic of the situation. He thinks that the increasing tendency in late years to consider and treat the Lutheran National Church as a branch of the State's activities

1944-1945

The following is a list of the names of the persons who were members of the "Soviet Union" in 1944-1945.

1. This was a long list of names, and it was not possible to list all of them. The names were listed in alphabetical order, and the list was divided into two parts. The first part listed the names of the persons who were members of the "Soviet Union" in 1944, and the second part listed the names of the persons who were members of the "Soviet Union" in 1945.

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4. The following is a list of the names of the persons who were members of the "Soviet Union" in 1946.

5. This was a long list of names, and it was not possible to list all of them. The names were listed in alphabetical order, and the list was divided into two parts. The first part listed the names of the persons who were members of the "Soviet Union" in 1946, and the second part listed the names of the persons who were members of the "Soviet Union" in 1947.

is due to the general development in all democratic countries, where the modern State is dominated by a struggle to increase its concentration of power.

"The regulating influence which the modern State feels it ought to exert implies control and can lead to a pronounced State guardianship. The individual is faced with the omnipotent State in an entirely different way from what was formerly the case, the State helps him, protects him, thinks and decides for him, while at the same time being careful to deprive him of some of his liberty and independence. Modern life is dominated by politics, not that people in general have thought political standpoints through for themselves or are engaged in exchanging political opinions, but in the sense that individuals, societies, institutions, and corporations can do very little before encountering the State as a helping, guiding, and opposing force. In the welfare State the price of the welfare seems to be this growth of the State's power".

When this tendency in the State to draw everything in under its power also affects the Church, this need not be any sign of enmity, continues the article. It may be combined with friendliness and real respect for the Church's work in the life of the people and society. But the expanding State is secularized, and for this reason its stronger hold on the Church is especially unwelcome. And there is a danger that the State will judge the Church from the point of view of its outward usefulness to society only. Where it lacks an understanding of the Church's true task it cannot be expected to make any effort to make the Church's purely religious activity effective.

And finally, Dr. Josefson points out that the State's power over the Church is to a large extent due to the Church's small power over the people.

13 Young People Give a Year to Mission Work.

13 young Swedish men and women have decided to give a year to voluntary church work in the youth organization of the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden. About a year ago the leaders of the organization issued an appeal: "Give a year to mission work", and 13 young people responded by volunteering their services. They are now being trained for their work at a three weeks course with both practical and theoretical subjects. On completing this they will be sent out two and two to various congregations where they are to serve as voluntary youth leaders. During their year of service they will be given board and lodging and a small sum for pocket-money. Several of the young people have left jobs so as to be able to take part in church youth work.

More than 600 Refugees to Enter Sweden.

618 refugees from camps in Austria are at present on their way to or have already arrived in Sweden where they are to find a home for the rest of their life. They will arrive in groups of 60 at intervals of one week. The refugees have been chosen from camps all over Austria by a Swedish delegation under the leadership of Agda Rössel, a superintendent of the Employment Board, in co-operation with UN's refugee commissariat.

Church Advertising in Gothenburg.

The Lutheran National Church and the various Free Churches in Gothenburg have together started an advertising campaign in the newspapers for Sunday church services - something new in Scandinavia, though it is well-known, for instance in USA.

The initiative for the campaign was taken by Mr. Hans Oddestad one of the managers of the Wool Concern. He succeeded in interesting ministers from the Free Churches in the idea by means of a lecture, and as the National Church was interested too, an advertising agent was asked to draw up a series of advertisements to run on four successive Saturdays in the local papers. The advertisements are based on the parable-idea, so that a certain point which is illustrated by a large picture is applied by means of a concise text to the spiritual life. All the advertisements close with the words "Welcome to church on Sunday", and the chief purpose of the campaign is to get more people to go to church.

The expenses are covered by the National Church, which pays $\frac{1}{3}$, the Free Churches which pay another third, while the rest is part of the profit from Billy Graham's meeting in Gothenburg this summer.

Increased Number of Students Studying Theology.

The number of theological students, who have begun their theological studies at the universities of Uppsala and Lund this autumn, is nearly five times as big as last year. No less than 95 have chosen the study of theology at Uppsala and nearly as many at Lund. The reason for this sudden increase is undoubtedly the new arrangement just introduced, according to which the theological course can be completed in $3\frac{1}{2}$ years and the examination requirements have been much reduced. An important reason for these changes was the threat of a shortage of pastors, but now it seems that the situation will improve in a few years. However, it is still uncertain how many of the new students will choose to be teachers of religion, and how many want to be pastors.

More than 100,000 Swedes in Church Study Circles.

The Study Association of Sweden's National Church recently celebrated its 25th anniversary in Stockholm. Much was said in praise of the Association's work through the years by the State and school authorities. No less than 4,383 study circles with a total of 61,000 members are at present studying under the auspices of the Association. 150 different study plans have been published.

In addition to this there is also a Study Association under the Free Churches, and at the annual meeting recently it was reported that there were some 3000 study circles with more than 41,000 members.

Within both associations the circles deal with social and cultural subjects as well as religious subjects, and about half the circles receive grants from the State.

Church Advancing in Gothenburg.

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"The World's Most United Welfare Work."

The Secretary General of the Central Welfare Council in Sweden Rev. Gösta Holmström has written an article in the weekly "Vår Kyrka" characterizing Swedish church welfare work as the "most united" in the world. In this connection he points out that Sweden is the only country in the world where all the welfare institutions have been able to agree to publish a joint paper "Diakoni". Formerly there were three parallel papers in Sweden published by three different welfare institutions.

Rev. Holmström points out that every Swedish rural deanery now has a "welfare commissioner", either a pastor or a layman appointed by the Central Welfare Council from candidates nominated by a convention of pastors in the deanery; the appointment is then approved by the Chapter. All the welfare commissioners in a diocese constitute its church welfare council, which assembles once a year for consultation. Each diocese also has its welfare secretary appointed by the Central Welfare Council upon the Bishop's recommendation. This secretary is the practical leader of the diocesan welfare council, and together with the Bishop he can arrange special welfare days and in other ways work to extend knowledge of and love for church welfare work.

Is Nursing Gradually Losing its Soul?

About 200 Swedish doctors, nurses, and pastors were assembled at a conference on Gotland arranged by the Home Mission Board in co-operation with the Christian Association of Doctors and Medical Students, and the Swedish Nurses' Association. The motto of the conference was "Is Nursing Gradually Losing its Soul?", and this subject was discussed from various viewpoints in lectures and discussion groups.

The conference passed a resolution emphasizing the great value of the Christian view of life to nursing. The resolution also stresses the following urgent demands: that every hospital have a special room for private devotions and services, that more scope be given for spiritual guidance in nursing, primarily through the establishment of full time spiritual guides in all the large hospitals, that all nursing personnel be given courses in the psychology of the sick, and that the atmosphere in waiting rooms and polyclinics be made more friendly and personal.

"The World's Most Urgent Welfare Work"

The Secretary General of the Central Welfare Council in Sweden Rev. Gösta Holmström has written an article in the weekly "Vår Kyrka" (Our Church) in this connection he points out that Sweden is the only country in the world where all four welfare institutions have been able to make a joint paper "Diskont". Apparently there were three parallel papers in Sweden published by three different welfare institutions.

Rev. Holmström points out that every Swedish rural parish now has a "welfare commissioner", either a pastor or a layman appointed by the Central Welfare Council from candidates nominated by a convention of pastors in the district. The appointment is then approved by the Chapter. All the welfare commissioners in a diocese constitute its church welfare committee which meets once a year for consultation. Each diocese also has its welfare secretary appointed by the Central Welfare Council upon the Bishop's recommendation. This secretary is the spiritual leader of the diocesan welfare council, and together with the Bishop he arranges special welfare days and in other ways work to extend knowledge of and love for church welfare work.

The Nursing Division in Sweden

About 200 Swedish doctors, nurses, and hospital workers assembled at a conference on Geriatric Nursing arranged by the Home Mission Board in co-operation with the Christian Association of Doctors and Medical Students, and the Swedish Nurses' Association. The motto of the conference was "Is Nursing Gradually Losing Its Soul?", and this subject was discussed from various viewpoints in lectures and discussion groups.

The conference passed a resolution emphasizing the vital value of the Christian view of life to nursing. The resolution also stresses the following urgent demands: that every hospital have a special room for private devotion and services, that more scope be given for spiritual guidance in nursing, primarily through the establishment of full time spiritual guides in all the large hospitals, that all nursing personnel be given courses in the psychology of the sick, and that the atmosphere in waiting rooms and hallways be made more friendly and personal.